

Implementing the CAHPS Survey at the Physician Level

A Centralized Approach for Survey Administration

Donna Marshall, MBA
Executive Director
Colorado Business Group on Health







Colorado Business Group on Health

- Member organization
- Established in 1996
- Mission: The mission of the Colorado Business 6.
 on Health is to advance the purchaser role to accelerate cost effective, high quality healthcare.
- Vision: Purchasers—united, motivated, and focused on health care value and quality.

Coalition on Health

One of over 60 coalitions in the U.S.; a proud member of the National Business Coalition on Health



Colorado Business Group on Health

Purchasers:

- Boards of Education Self Funded Trusts
- Boulder Valley School District
- City of Colorado Springs
- Colorado College
- Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association
- Colorado Springs School District #11
- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Poudre School District
- State of Colorado
- TIAA-Cref
- University of Colorado

Info@CBGHealth.org

www.coloradoHEALTHonline.org

Associations:

- Colorado Education Association
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Rocky Mountain Healthcare Coalition
- South Metro Chamber of Commerce

Affiliates:

21 Affiliates





Presentation overview: Colorado CAHPS Survey Project

- Importance of this project in our market
- Implementation
 - Partners
 - Survey administration
 - Data displays
- Business Models
- What's New?



The Colorado CAHPS Survey Project

Importance of this project in our market

CBGH has provided leadership for transparent information since 1997

- For the benefit of members and the market
- Based on nationally standardized metrics
- In collaboration with health plans, hospitals, and physicians



The Colorado CAHPS Survey Project Partners

- "Center for the Study of Services/Consumers' CHECKBOOK"
- Major partners before the survey was conducted
 - Health plan partners: Aetna and United
 - Members of the Colorado Business Group on Health
 - Colorado Medical Society
 - Colorado Association of Family Physicians
 - Key physician groups
- At the end of the project: a consumer and community discussion





The Colorado CAHPS Survey Project Administrator

- Center for the Study of Services
- Nonprofit, founded 1974
- Publisher of information directly for consumers in print and online—
 - CHECKBOOK, a Consumer Reports-like magazine and website on all kinds of local services—from auto repair shops to plumbers to physicians—in seven major metro areas
 - Nationally distributed books and online ratings of hospitals, physicians, and health plans
 - Ratings have been widely reported—for example, were source of AARP/Modern Maturity "50 Top Hospitals" list.
 - Has been a consumer representative on NCQA Committee on Performance Measurement, AHRQ National Advisory Council, IOM panels, etc.

Top Doctors



Survey Administration: Overview

- Informational meetings held with CBGH members and the Colorado Medical Society to endorse project
- Health plans provided the names and addresses of patients who were associated with the primary care physician
- Informational letters sent to physicians in advance of survey administration
- Responses compiled by Center for Study of Services



Survey Administration: Scope & Outcomes

- Used NQF-endorsed mail survey protocol with minor modifications to the 12-month version.
- Surveyed at least 113 patients per doctor (CAHPS recommendation) and went up to 150 patients per doctor if available (average of about 145 per doctor).
- 713 PCPs included in Kansas City; 479 PCPs in Denver; 437 PCPs, cardiologists, and ob/gyns in Memphis.
- Response rates ranged from 36% (in Denver) to 42% (in Kansas City)—average of 48 completed surveys per doctor in Denver, 51 in Memphis, 58 in Kansas City.

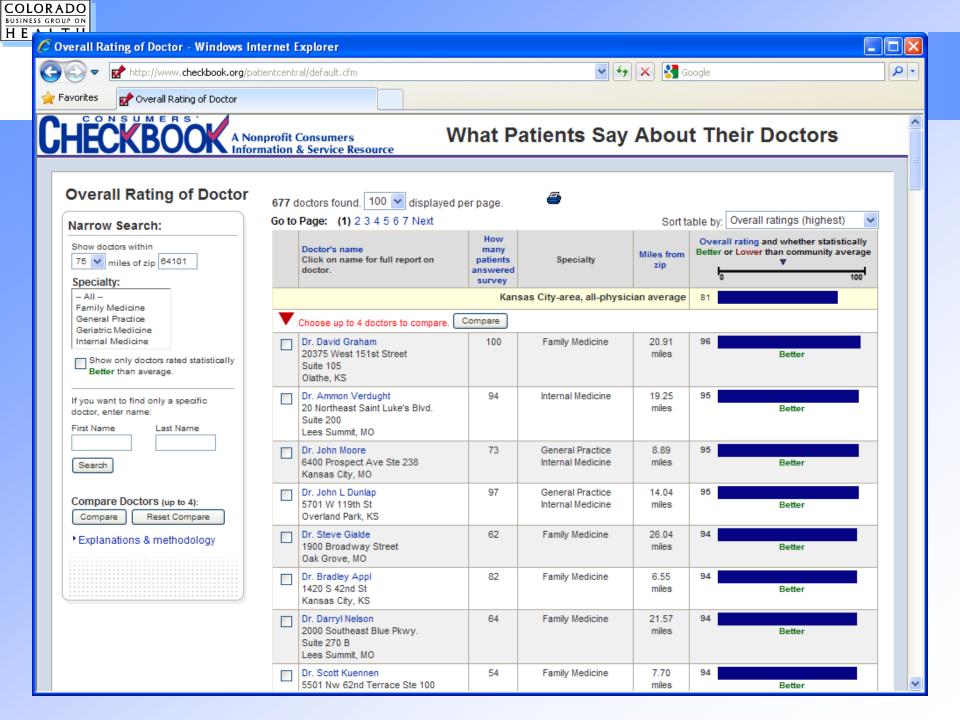


The CAHPS Survey Project Reporting



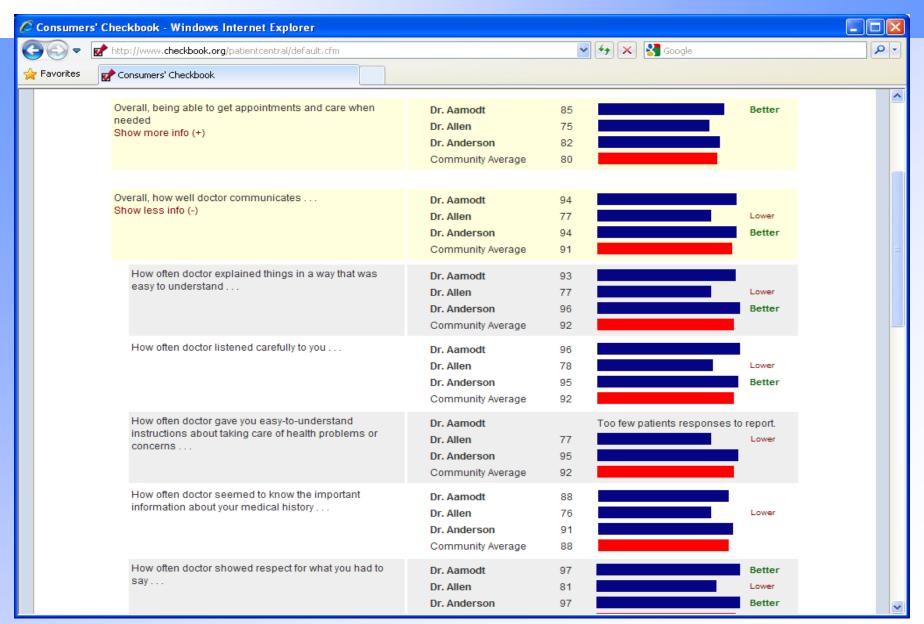
- Informing our community:
 - Physician webinars
 - Meetings with Executive Committee of the Colorado Medical Society
 - Stakeholder/ consumer meeting held in advance of the release of data
- Release of data to physicians 60 days in advance of the public reporting

All licensees must follow AQA Alliance's Principles for Public Reporting, including full disclosure of methods and limitations.





Question-by-Question Detail





Survey Results for Colorado Market

	"Always"
When you phone the doctor's office to get an appointment for care you need right away, you always get an appointment as soon as you think it is needed.	61%
When you phone the doctor's office with a medical question during regular office hours, you always get an answer to your medical question that same day.	49%
The doctor always listens carefully to you.	78%
The doctor always gives you easy to understand instructions about taking care of health problems or concerns you have discussed.	76%
Clerks and receptionists in the doctor's office are always as helpful as you think they should be.	50%



The CSS CAHPS Survey Project Business Model

- Initial pilot projects were in Kansas City, Denver, Memphis.
- Checkbook/CSS, was the survey sponsor.
- Results are being reported *free* to the public at the individual physician level on a Checkbook/CSS website.
- Checkbook/CSS is also licensing the results free to community coalitions to report on their websites (Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium, Healthy Memphis Common Table, CBGH).
- Checkbook/CSS is licensing results for a fee to health plans—and possibly medical groups and others—which can use in provider directories, P4P, quality improvement, certification or accreditation activities etc.



Variations on the Business Models

- Where is the source/ the impetus to create a model that the community will support?
- Key questions:
 - What survey, or what variations on existing survey tools?
 - Where does the sample come from?
 - Who administers the survey: from sample selection to aggregation of results?
 - Who pays?
 - How are results used?



Possible Variations on the Business Models

■ Where is the source of the sample frame?

- Multiple health plans pool data
- One health plan entirely is data source
- Multiple health plans and multiple medical groups
- One health plan and multiple medical groups
- Multiple medical groups
- One medical group system

■ Who administers?

- Multiple health plans coordinate
- One health plan
- Multiple medical groups or one medical group system
- An independent administrator



Advantages of the Coordinated Administration Model

- Physicians' scores are not affected by the plan patient is in.
- Can share costs, and avoid repeated startup overhead.
- Makes adequate sample sizes per doctor possible.
- Keeps down respondent burden.
- Avoids confusion of different results for the same doctor.
- Enhances likelihood of impact on doctors.
- Enhances visibility and potential impact on consumers.
- Adds insulation from possible physician pushback.



Continued

- Facilitates sharing results/collaboration with other users—e.g., for specialty board Maintenance of Certification.
- May make it easier to get support from foundations, government.
- Makes possible nonprofit mailing rates.
- Timing of the project: once per year or every other year.



Advantages of the Centralized Model to CBGH

- Coalitions with few resources can partner with a survey administrator and local health plans
- Health plan partners are important in communities with few large medical groups



What's New?/ Conclusion

Latest statistics: over 50,000 unique web visits since July 2009

What's new: New York City Project

- Survey in the field May through July, 2010
- 936 Physicians, over 147k patients
- Public reporting planned for December
- Health plan support: Aetna, CIGNA, Oxford, United

We would like to repeat the process in Colorado

